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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, CI/ICD

SUBJECT: Soviet Counteraction on Haj to Mecca

1. For several years the American Committee for Liberation has sent a few Soviet Moslem emigres on the annual Haj to Mecca to tell their own stories of Soviet oppression of their homelands to Moslem audiences and to counter Soviet propaganda during the religious pilgrimage. Reports of the AmComLib pilgrims have included information on the general character and actions of the pilgrims sent by the USSR.
2. On this year's Haj in June the Soviets took the unusual action of adding to their group of pilgrims the son of one of the pilgrims sent by AmComLib. The father, Dr. Said Magruf Karimi, an Uzbek with Italian citizenship, is in the U.S. as an exchange professor at the University of Pennsylvania. The son, left behind when the father defected during World War II, is Dr. Jowwat Karimoff, director of eight hospitals in Karakapak in the USSR. The meeting was deeply emotional and disturbing to the father. The Soviet move to confront the emigre with his well-educated son was obviously calculated to cause his father's redefection, since the son was not the type of person normally included in the Soviet Haj delegation.
3. Although the American Committee covers its support of emigre pilgrims, the emigres' plans to attend the Haj can be readily ascertained in advance through visa applications. Either by this means or through informants in the emigration in the U.S., the Soviets could have planned their operation on firm information well in advance of the trip.
4. A full report of the incident will be obtained from Dr. Karimi when he returns to the U.S. and will be made available for your study and analysis of this new type of Soviet action.

CORD MEYER, JR.

Chief

International Organizations Division

DC/IO/5, []:jat (28 July 58)

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